



# KARTTIKEYA

A SON OF SHIVA

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# KARTTIKEYA



IN ANCIENT TIMES, THE DEVAS AND THE ASURAS WERE FOREVER AT WAR AND OFTEN IT WAS THE ASURAS WHO WERE DEFEATED.

AFTER ONE CRUSHING DEFEAT, AN ASURA KING NAMED AKHIRSEN WENT TO HIS DAUGHTER, MAYA, A SORCERESS.

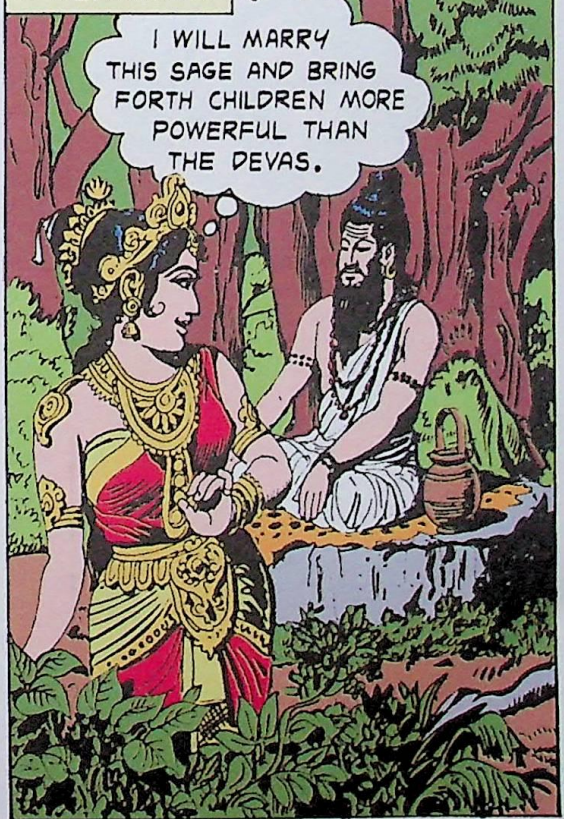
THE DEVAS  
ARE VICTORIOUS AGAIN.  
O THE SHAME  
OF IT!

DON'T WORRY,  
FATHER. I WILL NOT REST  
TILL I TEACH THE DEVAS  
A LESSON!



TAKING THE FORM OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN MAYA WENT TO THE FOREST WHERE THE GREAT SAGE KASHYAPA SAT DEEP IN MEDITATION.

I WILL MARRY  
THIS SAGE AND BRING  
FORTH CHILDREN MORE  
POWERFUL THAN  
THE DEVAS.



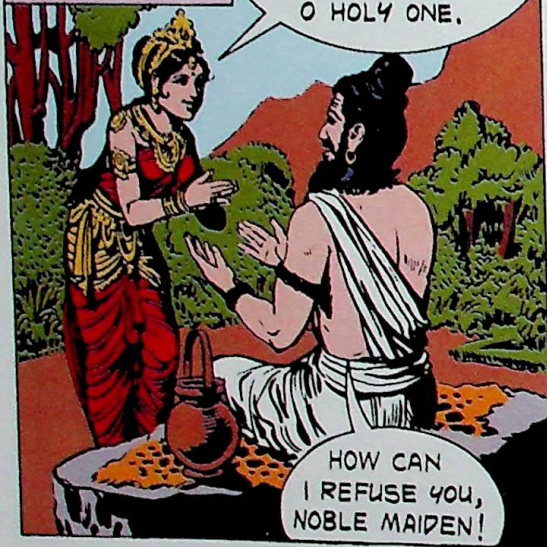


HER MAGIC CHANGED  
THE PLACE INTO  
A PRETTY GARDEN  
WHERE SHE DANCED  
AND SANG MELODIOUSLY...



...TILL THE SAGE  
LOOKED UP.

PLEASE LET ME SERVE  
YOU AS YOUR WIFE,  
O HOLY ONE.



HOW CAN  
I REFUSE YOU,  
NOBLE MAIDEN!

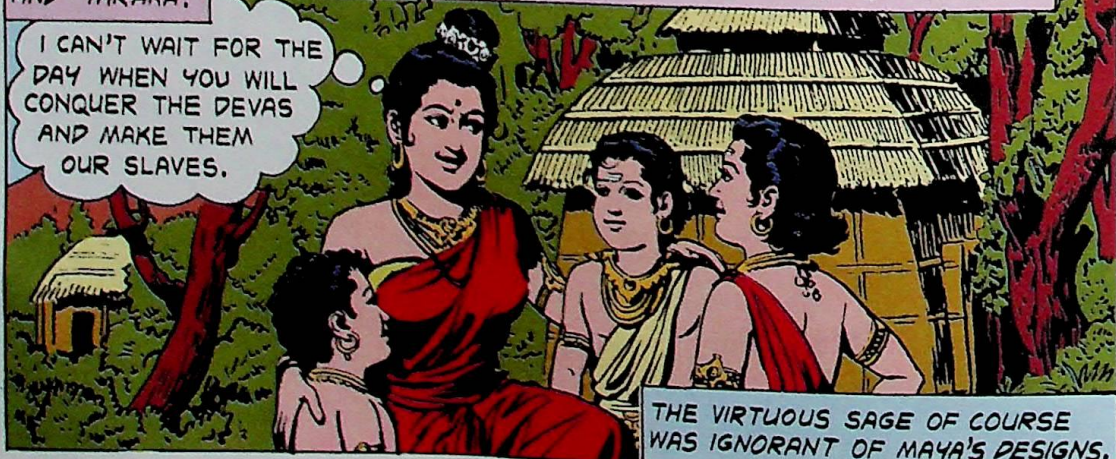
SAGE KASHYAPA AND THE ASURA  
PRINCESS LIVED HAPPILY IN THE  
FOREST. IN DUE COURSE A SON WAS  
BORN TO THEM.



YOU, MY MIGHTY  
SURAPADMAN, SHALL  
BE THE LORD OF THE  
THREE WORLDS.

LATER MAYA GAVE BIRTH TO TWO MORE SONS WHOM SHE NAMED SIMHAMUKHA  
AND TARAKA.

I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE  
DAY WHEN YOU WILL  
CONQUER THE DEVAS  
AND MAKE THEM  
OUR SLAVES.

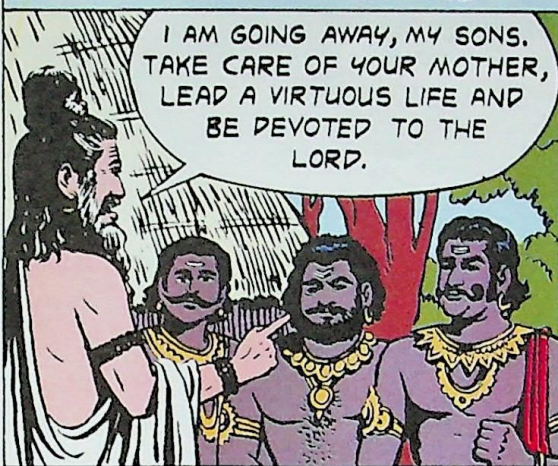


THE VIRTUOUS SAGE OF COURSE  
WAS IGNORANT OF MAYA'S DESIGNS.



## KARTTIKEYA

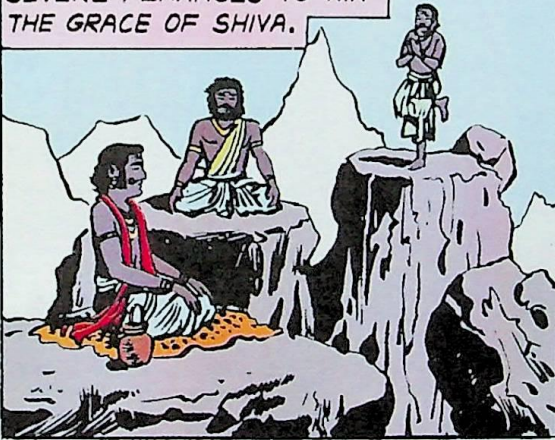
SO WHEN THE BOYS CAME OF AGE —



NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT. PROPITIATE LORD SHIVA AND OBTAIN BOONS WHICH WILL MAKE YOU INVINCIBLE.



THE THREE LEFT HOME AND PERFORMED SEVERE PENANCES TO WIN THE GRACE OF SHIVA.



BUT THEIR EFFORTS DID NOT BEAR FRUIT. SO SURAPADMAN, THE ELDEST, JUMPED INTO THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE.

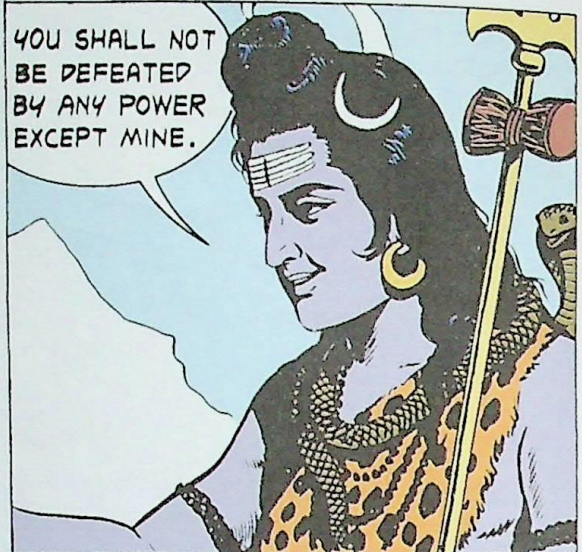
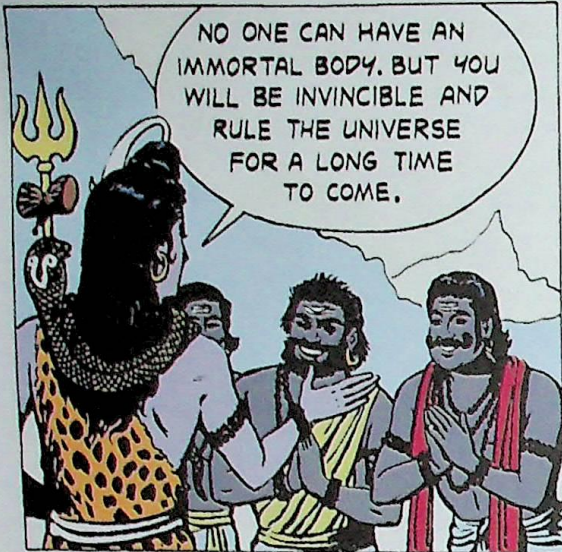


BUT THE NEXT MOMENT HE WAS SAVED FROM ITS FLAMES BY SHIVA HIMSELF.

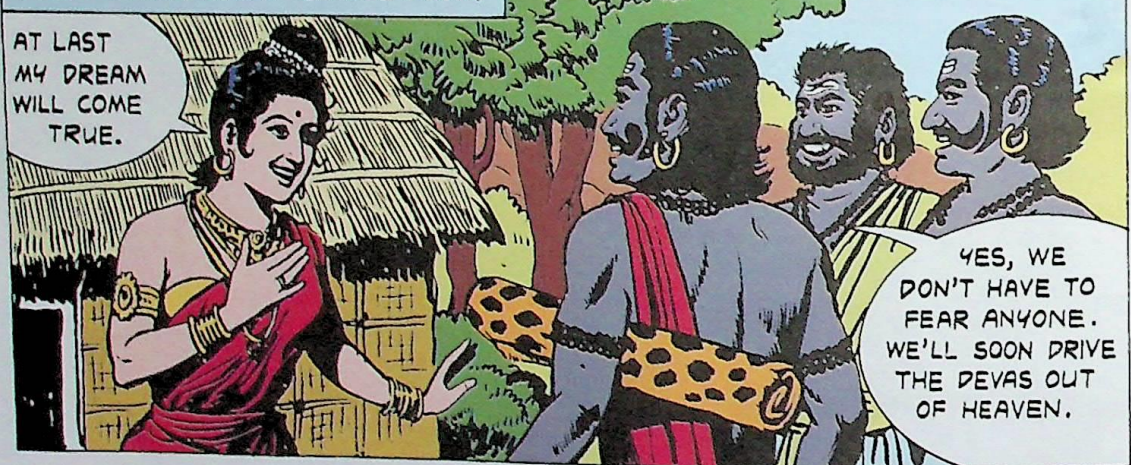
WHY ARE YOU SACRIFICING YOURSELF ?







INTOXICATED WITH TRIUMPH, THE THREE BROTHERS RETURNED HOME AND TOLD THEIR MOTHER ABOUT SHIVA'S BOON.



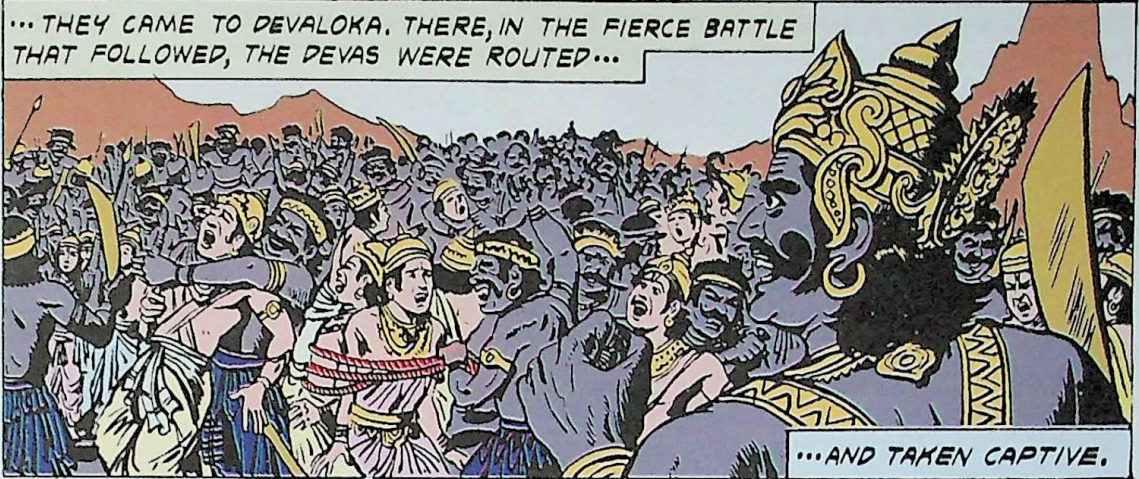
THEN, RAVAGING KINGDOM AFTER KINGDOM ON THEIR ROUTE...





KARTTIKEYA

... THEY CAME TO DEVALOKA. THERE, IN THE FIERCE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, THE DEVAS WERE ROUTED...

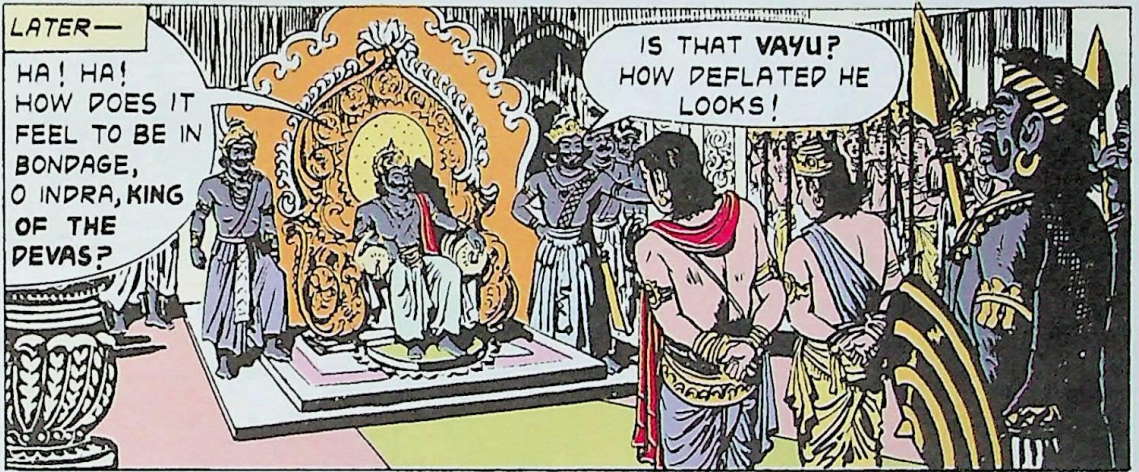


...AND TAKEN CAPTIVE.

LATER—

HA! HA!  
HOW DOES IT  
FEEL TO BE IN  
BONDAGE,  
O INDRA, KING  
OF THE  
DEVAS?

IS THAT VAYU?  
HOW DEFLATED HE  
LOOKS!



WHAT SHOULD WE  
DO WITH THEM,  
BROTHER?

WE'LL MAKE  
THEM OUR SLAVES.  
INDRA WILL BE OUR  
FISHERMAN, AND  
VAYU OUR SWEEPER.  
AND...

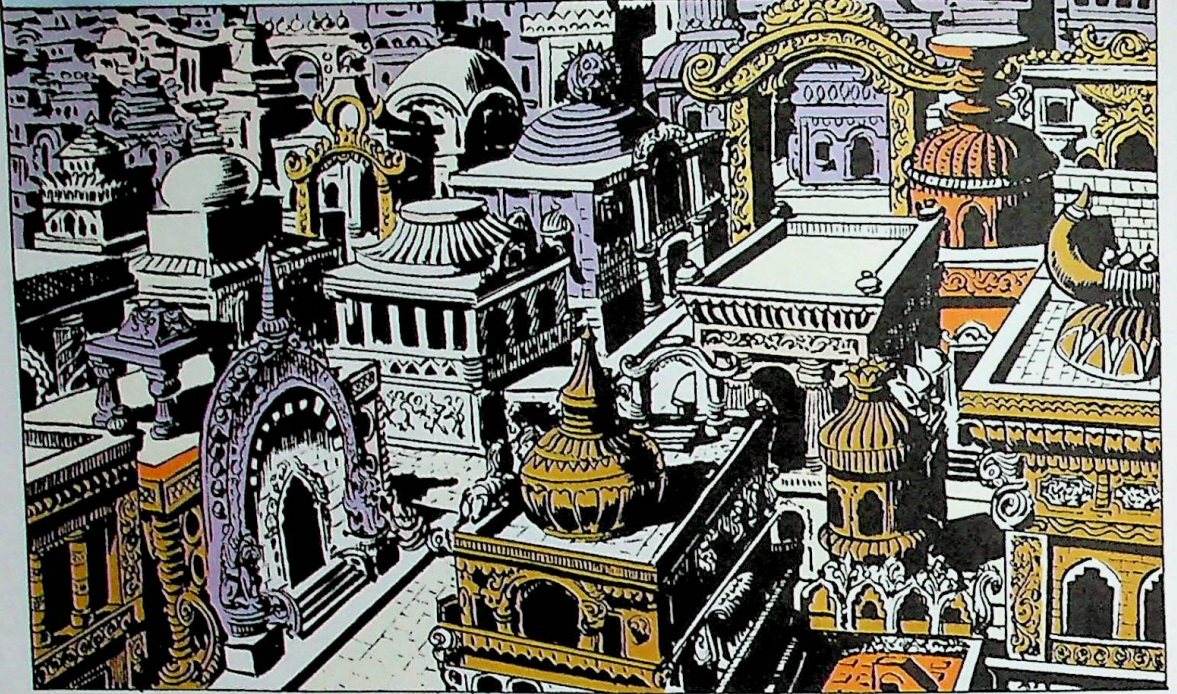
...SURYA WILL MAKE  
A FINE BALL FOR OUR  
CHILDREN.

A BRILLIANT IDEA!  
HAHAHA!





SURAPADMAN HAD A MAGNIFICENT CITY BUILT BY VISHWAKARMA, THE ARCHITECT OF THE DEVAS. HE CALLED IT MAHENDRAPURI AND MADE IT HIS CAPITAL.



THE DEVAS MEANWHILE WERE LAMENTING THEIR FATE.

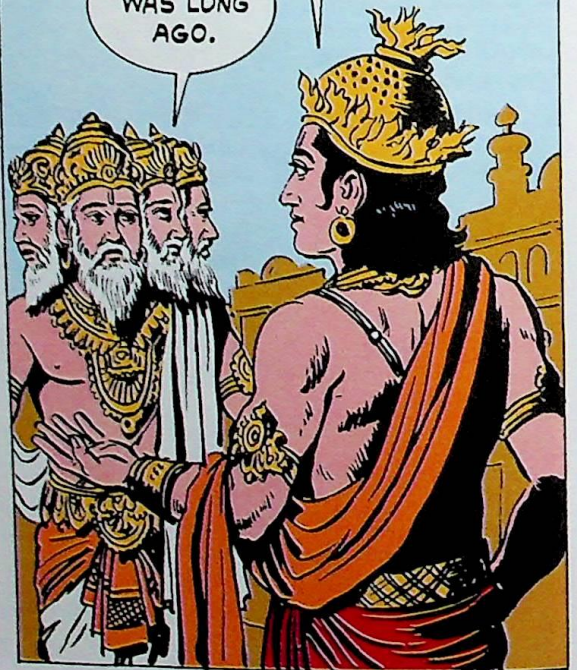
THEY HAVE IMPRISONED EVEN THE VALIANT JAYANTA\*! WHAT SHALL WE DO?

HOW LONG CAN WE SUFFER THIS HUMILIATION?



SHIVA HAD PROMISED TO HELP US.

THAT WAS LONG AGO.



\* INDRA'S SON



## KARTTIKEYA

LET'S GO TO KAILAS  
ONCE MORE AND  
PRAY TO HIM.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN  
WHAT HAPPENED TO  
KAMA WHEN WE LAST  
VISITED KAILAS?

KAMA, THE GOD OF LOVE, HAD BEEN BURNT TO ASHES WHEN HE HAD TRIED TO DISTURB SHIVA'S PENANCE. LATER, HOWEVER, HE WAS RESTORED TO LIFE.

SHIVA, HAPPILY  
MARRIED TO PARVATI  
NOW, IS MORE  
COMPASSIONATE AND  
WILL SURELY LISTEN  
TO OUR PRAYER.

YES. LET'S GO TO KAILAS  
ONCE MORE.

AT KAILAS —

LORD, DRUNK WITH  
POWER THE MEAN ASURAS  
HAVE MADE US THEIR  
SLAVES. MY SON, JAYANTA  
IS THEIR PRISONER !

BE PATIENT !  
YOUR MISERIES  
WILL SOON END  
BECAUSE THEIR  
DAYS ARE  
NUMBERED.



THEN SHIVA ASSUMED A FORM WITH  
SIX FACES...



...FROM WHICH SIX DIVINE SPARKS  
SHOT FORTH...

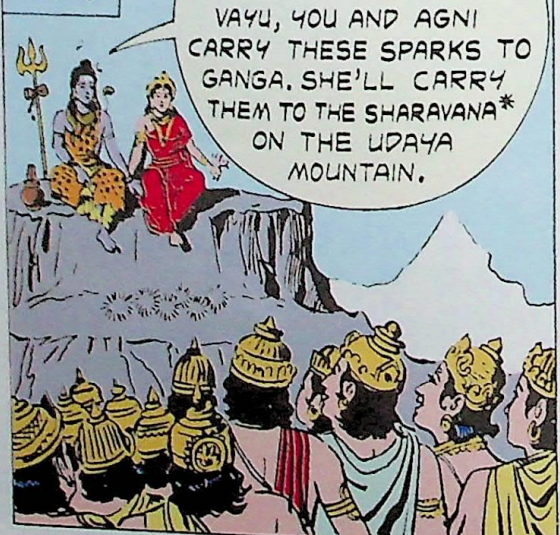


...DAZZLING THE DEVAS WITH THEIR SPLENDOUR.



THE CHILD BORN  
OUT OF THESE  
SPARKS WILL SLAY  
THE ASURAS.

SHIVA THEN ASSUMED HIS ORIGINAL  
FORM.



VAYU, YOU AND AGNI  
CARRY THESE SPARKS TO  
GANGA. SHE'LL CARRY  
THEM TO THE SHARAVANA\*  
ON THE UDAYA  
MOUNTAIN.

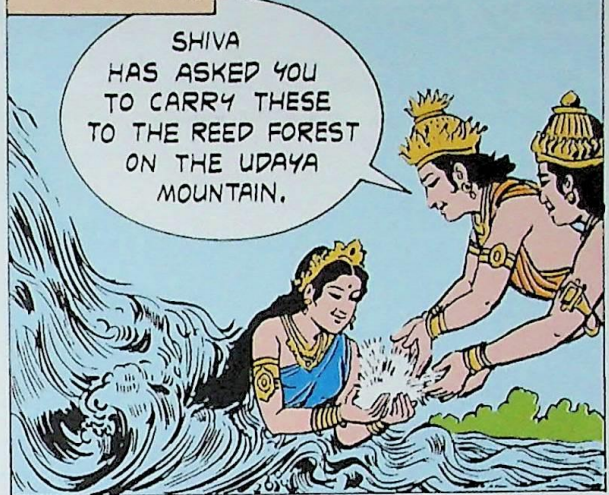
\*FOREST OF REEDS



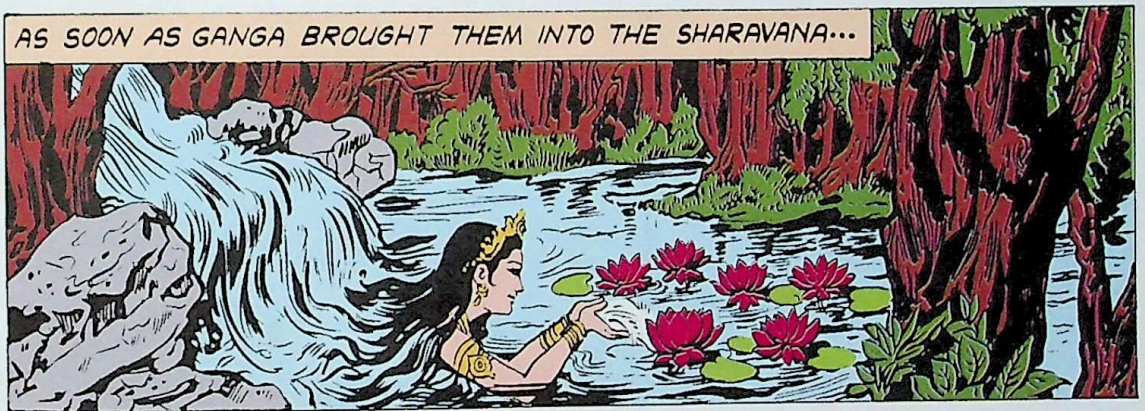
AGNI AND VAYU FLEW WITH THE SPARKS...



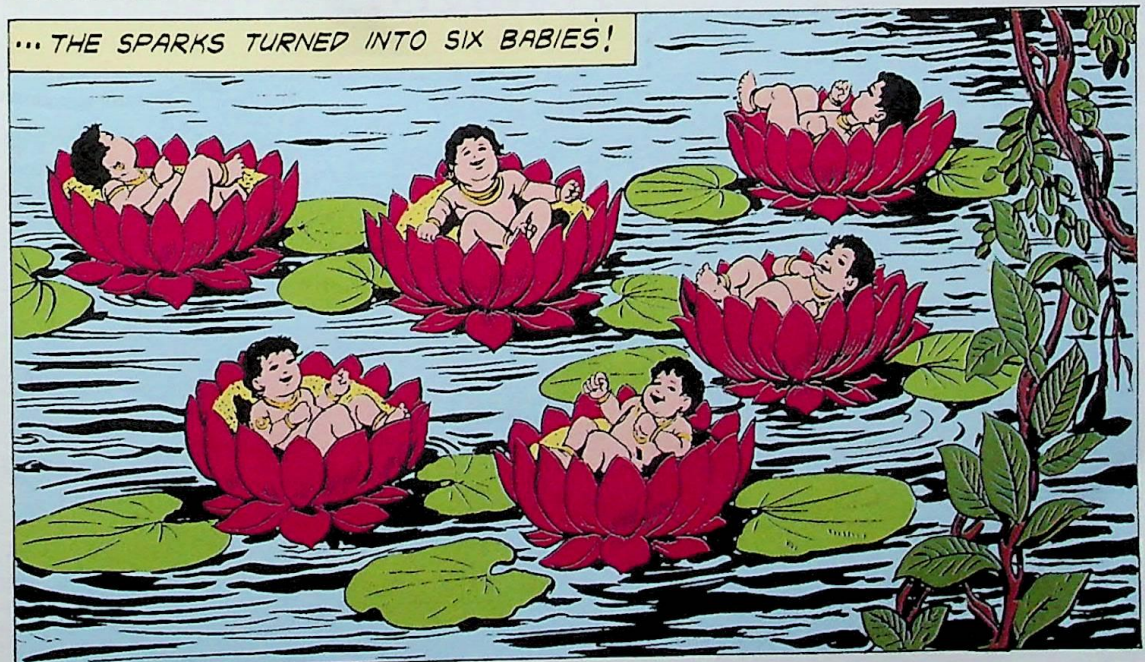
... TO GANGA.



AS SOON AS GANGA BROUGHT THEM INTO THE SHARAVANA...



... THE SPARKS TURNED INTO SIX BABIES!

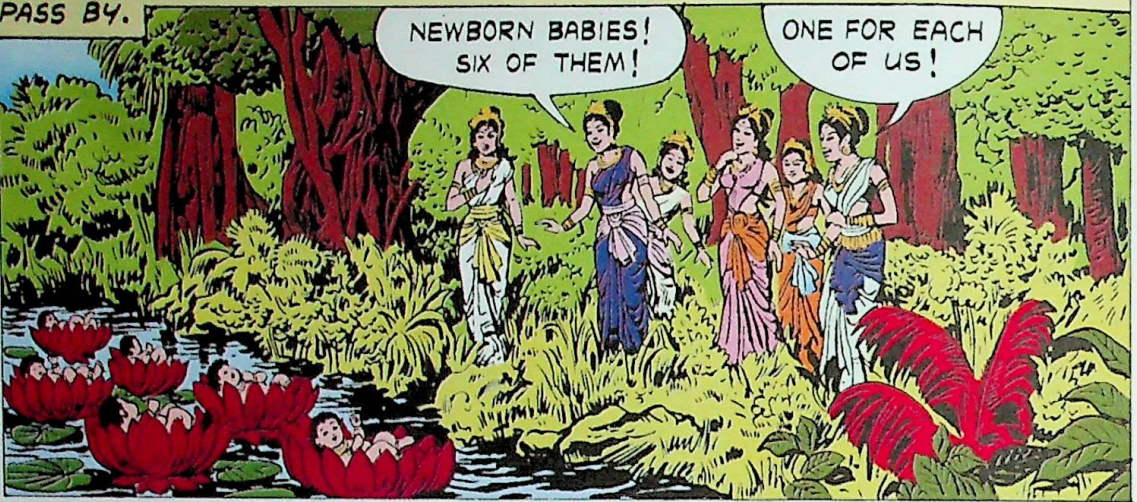




JUST THEN SIX CELESTIAL NYMPHS CALLED THE KRITTIKAS HAPPENED TO PASS BY.

NEWBORN BABIES!  
SIX OF THEM!

ONE FOR EACH  
OF US!



AND THE KRITTIKAS BEGAN TO CUDDLE  
THE INFANTS.



THE DEVAS CAME ON THE SCENE  
A LITTLE LATER.

LOOK! THE  
CHILD...

YOU MEAN  
CHILDREN!



AND THEN CAME SHIVA AND PARVATI.

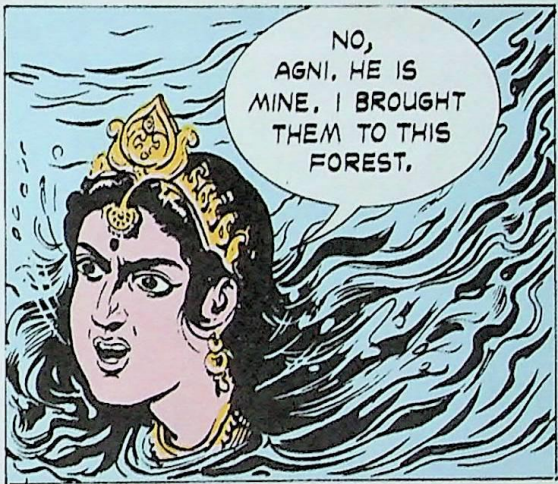
SHIVA'S CHILDREN!  
MY CHILDREN!





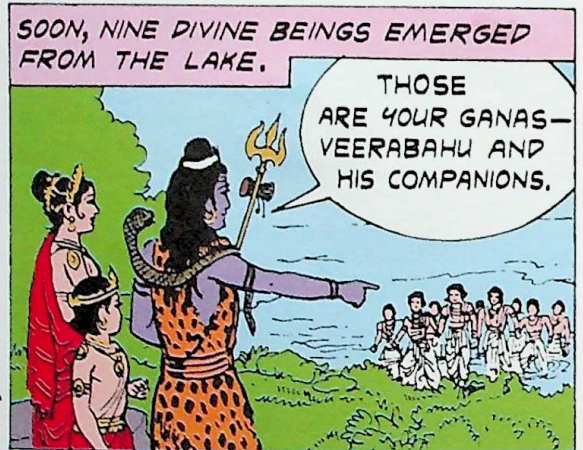
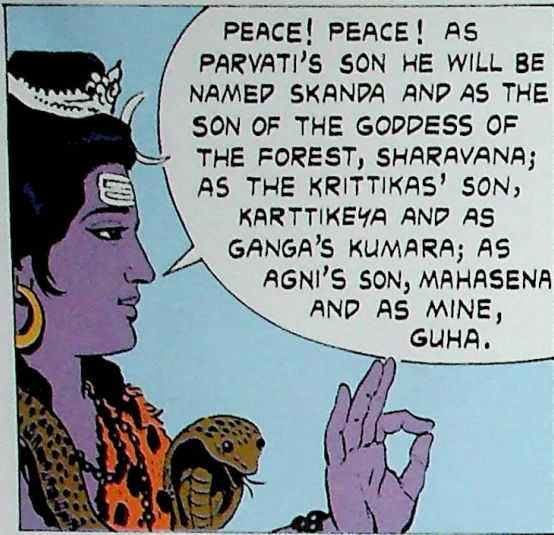
## KARTTIKEYA

AS PARVATI STEPPED CLOSER, THE BABIES MERGED INTO ONE.





## AMAR CHITRA KATHA



THEN, AFTER THE DEVAS HAD WORSHIPPED LORD KARTTIKEYA ...



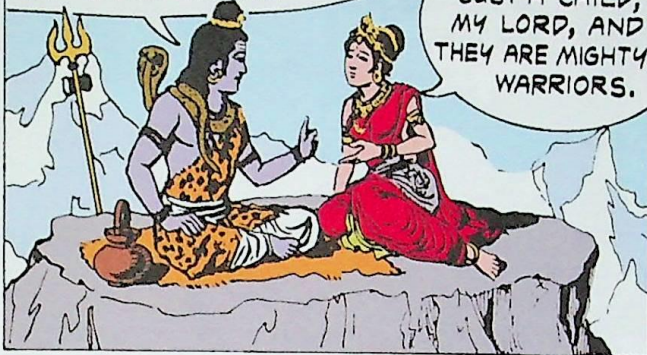


## KARTTIKEYA

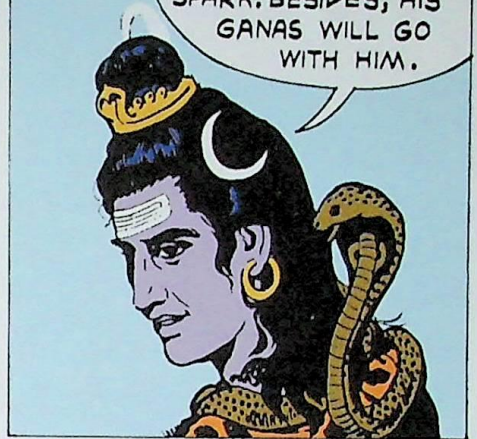
ONE DAY AT KAILASA—

PARVATI, THE TIME HAS COME FOR KARTTIKEYA TO SUBDUE TARAKASURA, SIMHAMUKHA, AND SURAPADMAN.

BUT HE IS JUST A CHILD, MY LORD, AND THEY ARE MIGHTY WARRIORS.

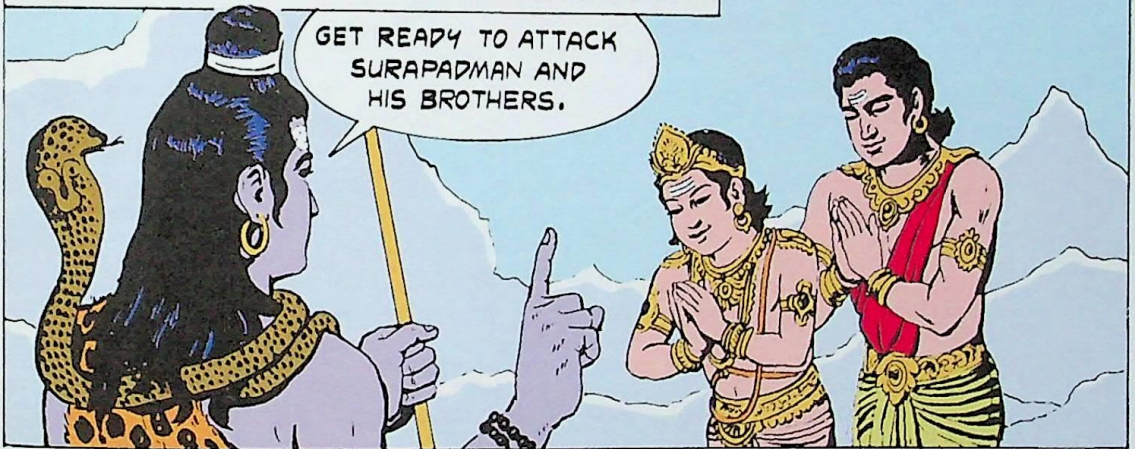


YES, BUT HE IS THE CHILD WITH THE DIVINE SPARK. BESIDES, HIS GANAS WILL GO WITH HIM.



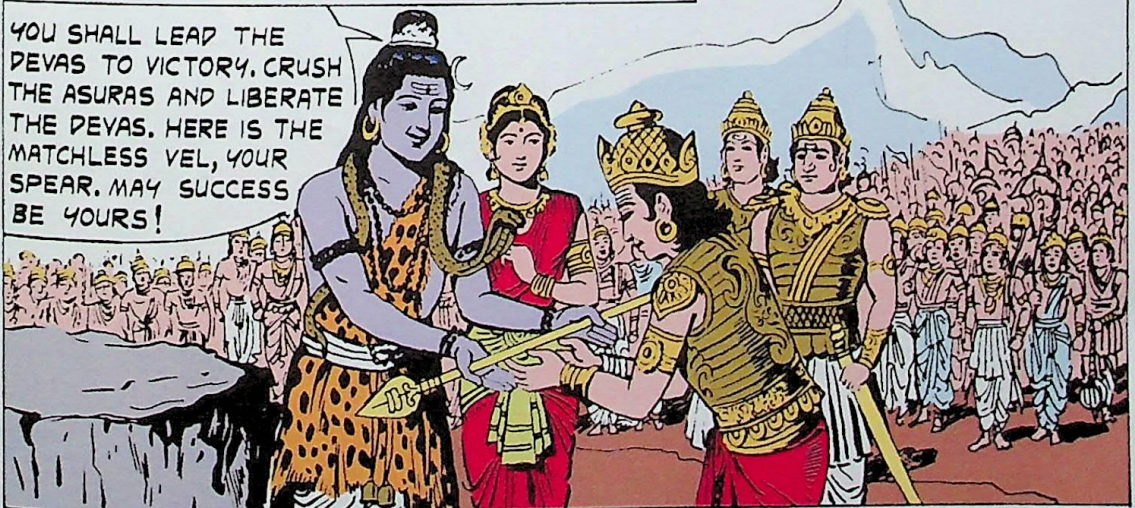
SHIVA SUMMONED KARTTIKEYA AND VEERABAHU.

GET READY TO ATTACK SURAPADMAN AND HIS BROTHERS.



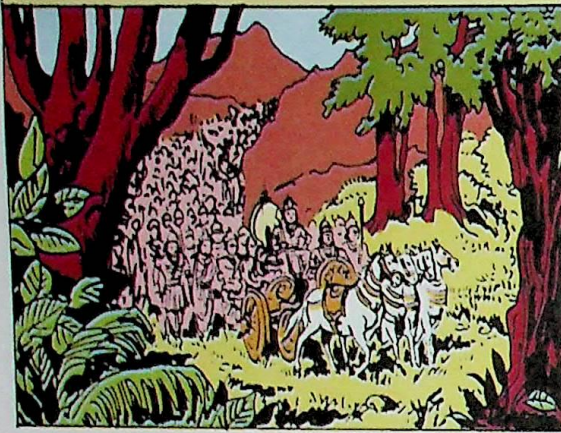
WHEN THE PREPARATIONS WERE COMPLETED—

YOU SHALL LEAD THE DEVAS TO VICTORY. CRUSH THE ASURAS AND LIBERATE THE DEVAS. HERE IS THE MATCHLESS VEL, YOUR SPEAR. MAY SUCCESS BE YOURS!





ARMED WITH THE SPEAR, KARTTIKEYA  
SET OUT IN PURSUIT OF THE ASURAS.



AFTER HE HAD COVERED  
SOME DISTANCE —

YOU WILL HAVE TO  
FACE ME, YOUNG BOY,  
BEFORE YOU PROCEED  
FURTHER.



IT WAS THE ASURA, KRAUNCHA  
IN THE FORM OF A MOUNTAIN.

WITHOUT A WORD, KARTTIKEYA  
HURLED HIS SPEAR...



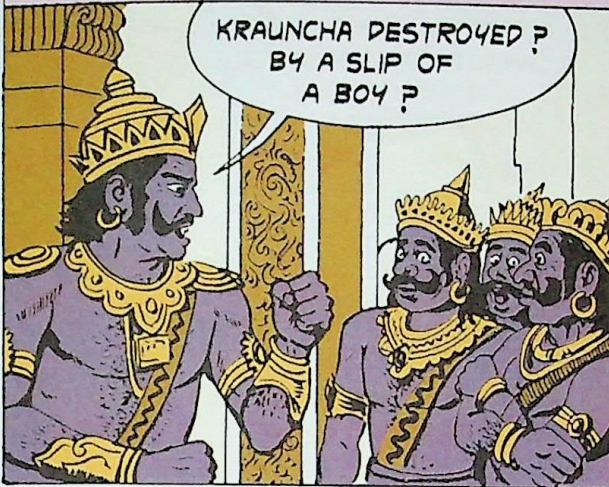
...AND KRAUNCHA WAS NO MORE.





KARTTIKEYA

WHEN THE NEWS REACHED TARAKA—



WELL, WELL, LET  
ME GO AND  
SIZE HIM  
UP.



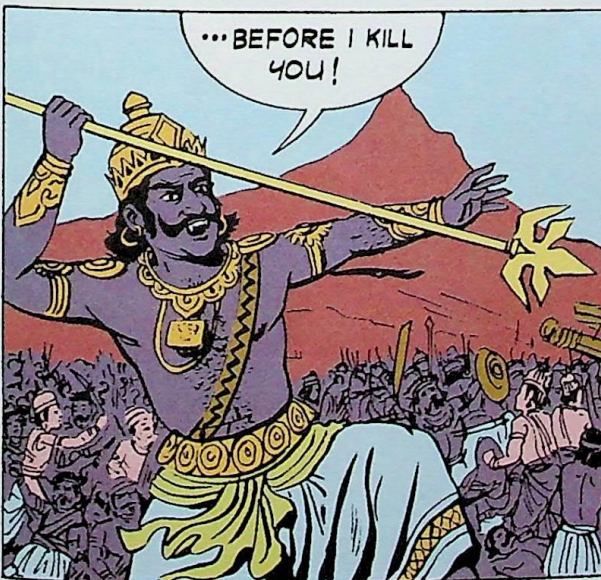
WHEN HE CAME FACE TO FACE WITH KARTTIKEYA—

DON'T MISUSE THE  
WEAPONS GRANTED  
TO YOU. RELEASE  
THE DEVAS. YOU  
AND YOUR  
BROTHERS WILL  
BE FORGIVEN.

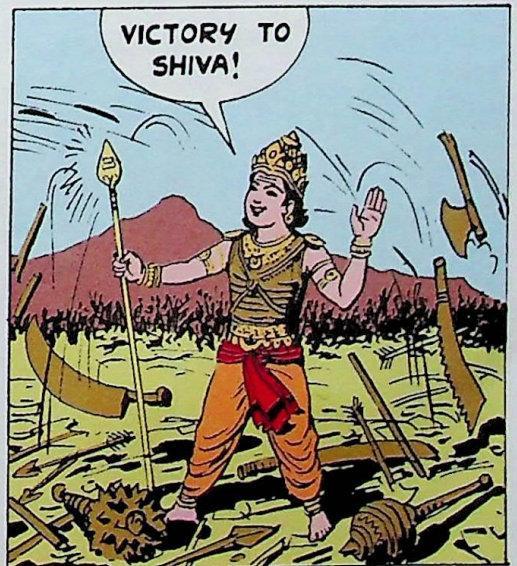


HOW DARE  
YOU, YOU IMPUDENT  
BOY! GET  
AWAY...

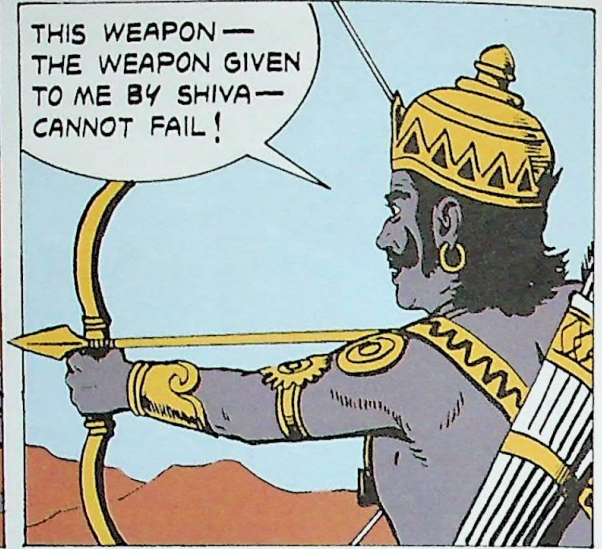
...BEFORE I KILL  
YOU!



VICTORY TO  
SHIVA!



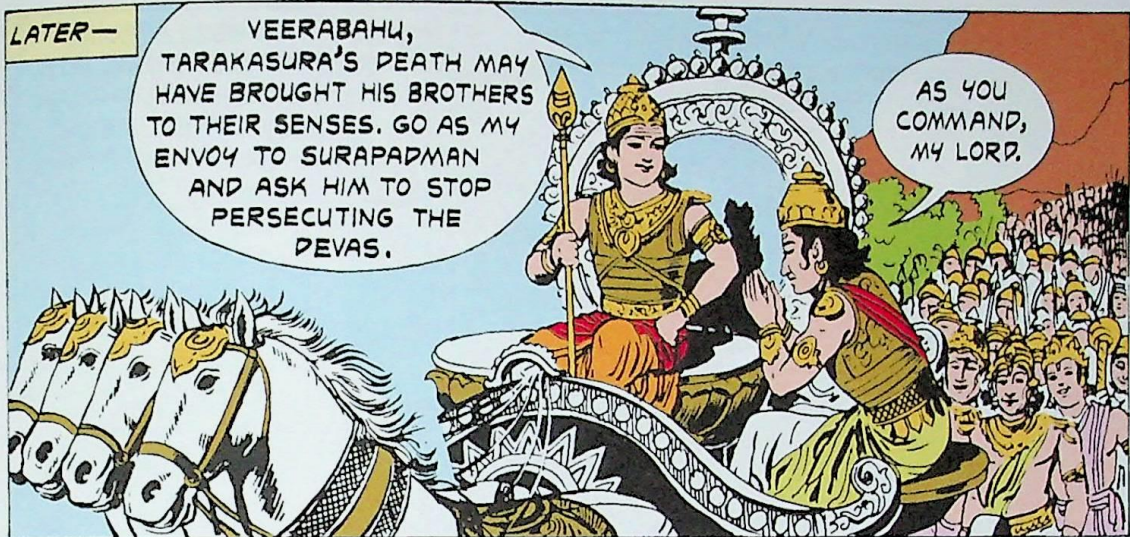




KARTTIKEYA'S SPEAR FOUND ITS MARK.







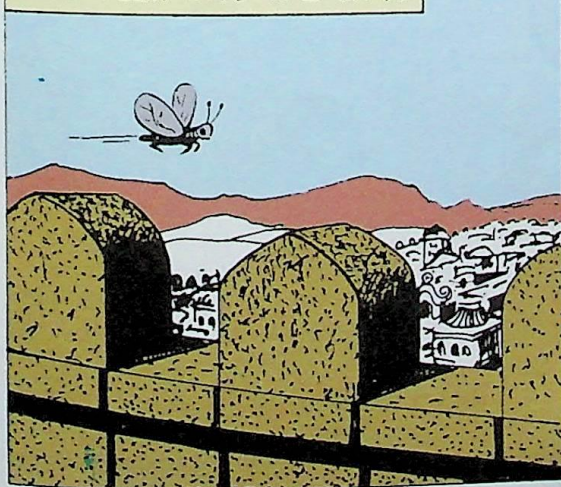
WHEN VEERABAHU REACHED  
SURAPADMAN'S CAPITAL,  
MAHENDRAPURI—



HE CHANGED HIMSELF INTO A TINY  
INSECT...



...AND FLEW INTO THE CITY.

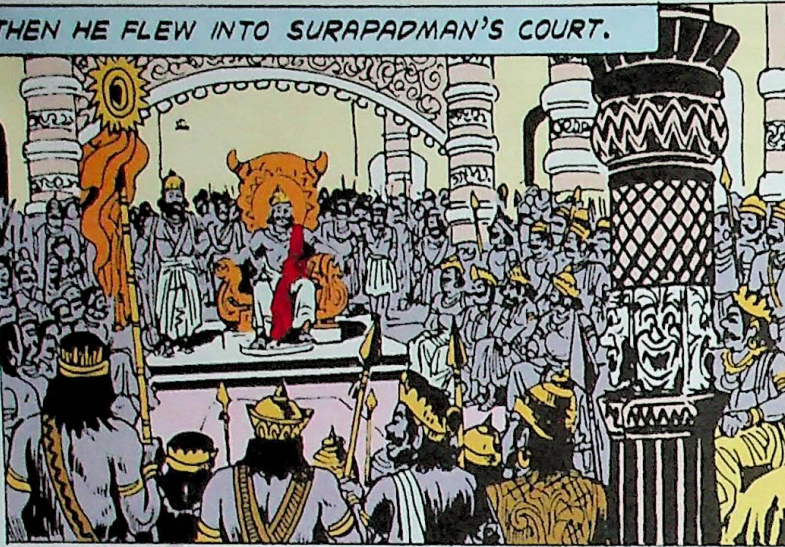


IN THE PRISON—

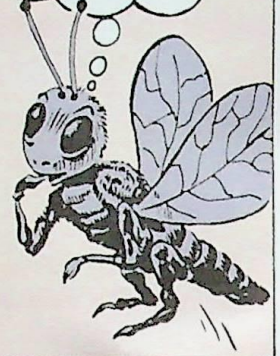




THEN HE FLEW INTO SURAPADMAN'S COURT.



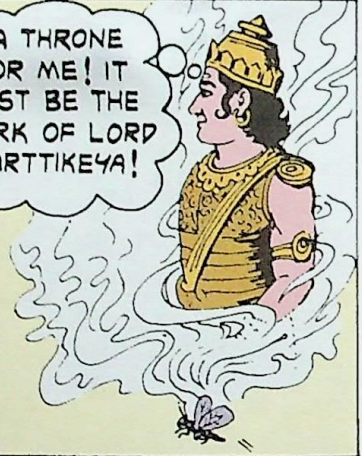
I WILL ASSUME  
MY OWN FORM NOW.  
WILL SURAPADMAN  
OFFER ME  
A SEAT?



THE NEXT MOMENT —



A THRONE  
FOR ME! IT  
MUST BE THE  
WORK OF LORD  
KARTTIKEYA!

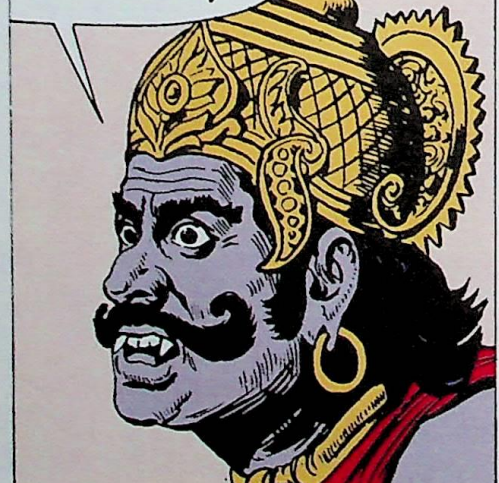


WHO...  
WHO ARE  
YOU?

I AM LORD  
KARTTIKEYA'S  
MESSENGER.

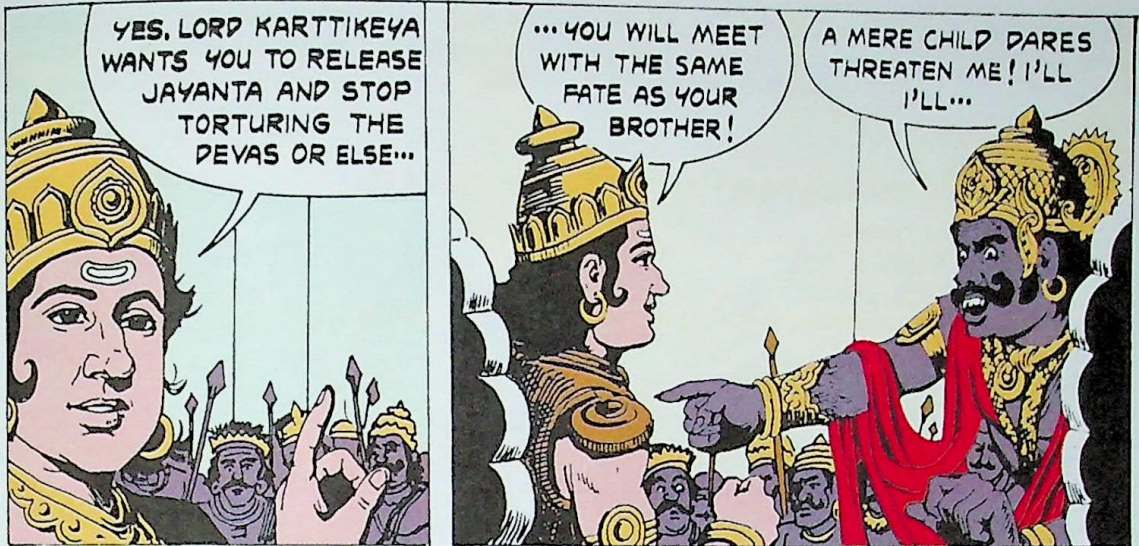


KARTTIKEYA!  
THE BOY WHO SLEW  
MY BROTHER!

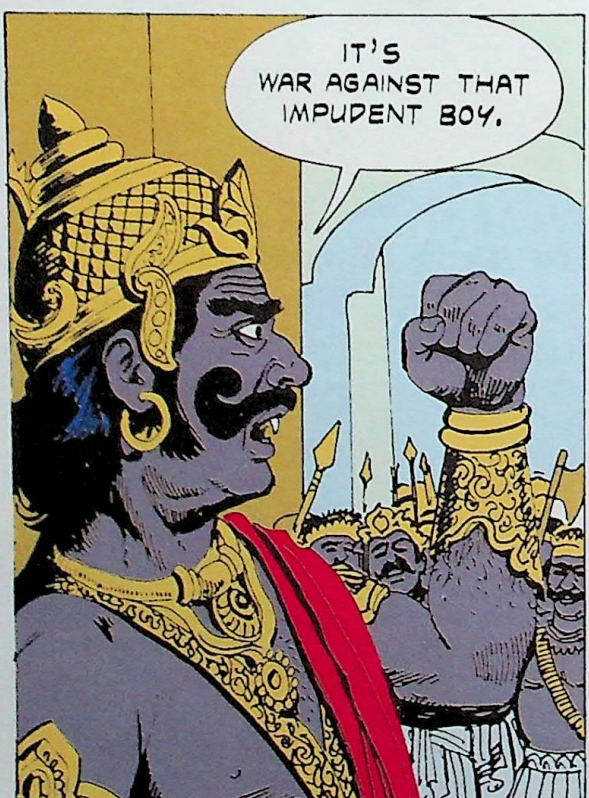
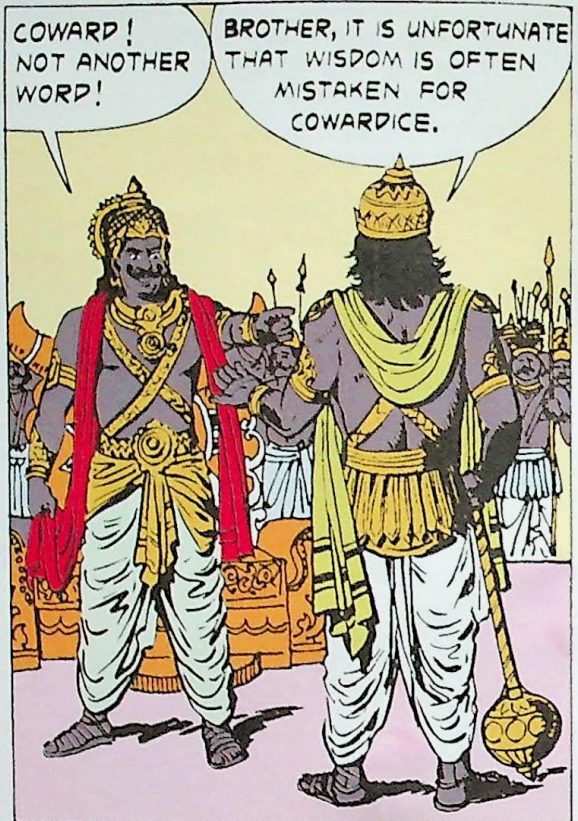




## KARTTIKEYA









MEANWHILE VEERABAHU HAD REACHED KARTTIKEYA'S CAMP.

IT'S NO USE.  
SURAPADMAN WANTED  
TO CAPTURE ME TOO!

WELL, WE'LL  
MEET THEM IN BATTLE.  
PREPARE TO MARCH TO  
MAHENDRAPURI.

WHEN KARTTIKEYA'S ARMY REACHED  
THE OUTSKIRTS OF MAHENDRAPURI,  
SURAPADMAN SENT HIS SON  
BANUKOPAN TO SUBDUE THEM.

BANUKOPAN FELL UPON THE DEVA ARMY.



ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE BATTLE—

COME, BANUKOPAN.  
TODAY, YOU SHALL  
NOT RETURN  
HOME.

I CERTAINLY  
WON'T. NOT TILL  
I'VE KILLED  
EVERY ONE  
OF YOU.





AMAR CHITRA KATHA

VEERABAHU RUSHED AT HIM AND THE TWO FOUGHT LONG AND HARD.



AT LAST BANUKOPAN FELL AND THE ASURAS FLED IN PANIC.



THE DEATH OF BANUKOPAN SHOOK SURAPADMAN.



SO THE NEXT DAY SIMHAMUKHA LED THE ATTACK. THE ARMY OF THE DEVAS REELED UNDER HIS ONSLAUGHT.

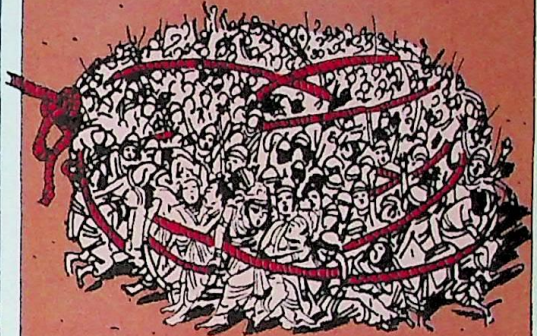




THEN SIMHAMUKHA SENT A MISSILE...



...WHICH WOUND ITSELF AROUND VEERABAHU, HIS BROTHER AND THE REST OF THE ARMY...



...AND HURLED THEM...

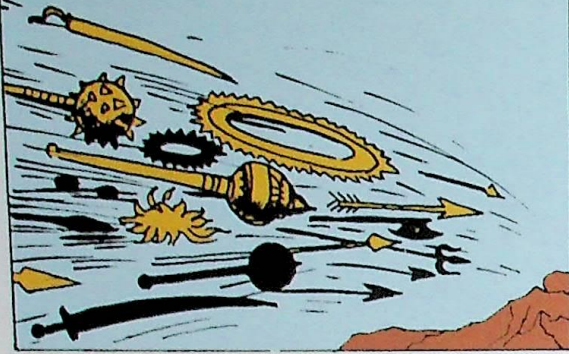


...FAR, FAR AWAY FROM THE BATTLEFIELD.





BUT KARTTIKEYA MEANWHILE HAD SENT FORTH SEVERAL MISSILES TO COUNTER THE MOVE.



SOON —



THEN KARTTIKEYA TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO SIMHAMUKHA.

YOU SHOULD NOT MISUSE THE POWERS ACQUIRED BY YOU. YOU SHOULD...



HAVE YOU COME HERE TO FIGHT OR TO PREACH?

AFTER A FIERCE BATTLE KARTTIKEYA HURLED INDRAYUDHA\* AT SIMHAMUKHA.



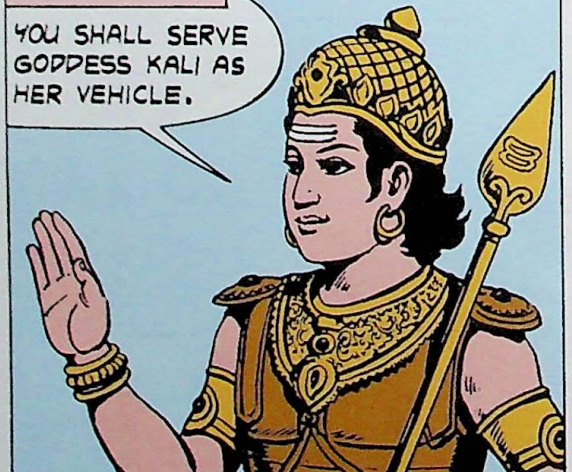
AS SIMHAMUKHA FELL —

YOUR WEAPON HAS SHATTERED MY EGO. NOW I SEE YOU IN ALL YOUR GLORY. O LORD, BLESS ME.



THE MERCIFUL KARTTIKEYA BLESSED SIMHAMUKHA.

YOU SHALL SERVE GODDESS KALI AS HER VEHICLE.



\*INDRA'S WEAPON, THE THUNDERBOLT

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THE NEXT DAY SURAPADMAN HIMSELF LED THE ASURAS TO THE BATTLEFIELD.



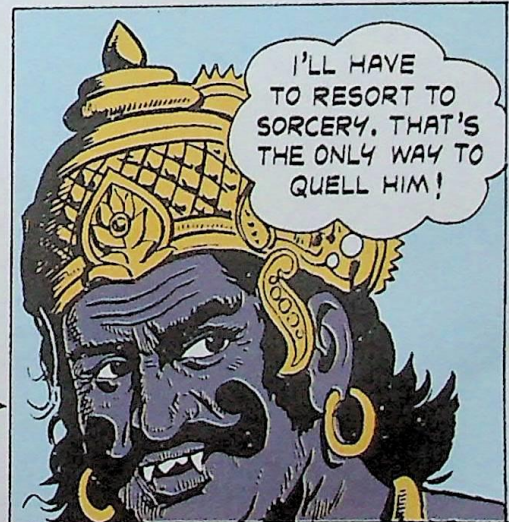
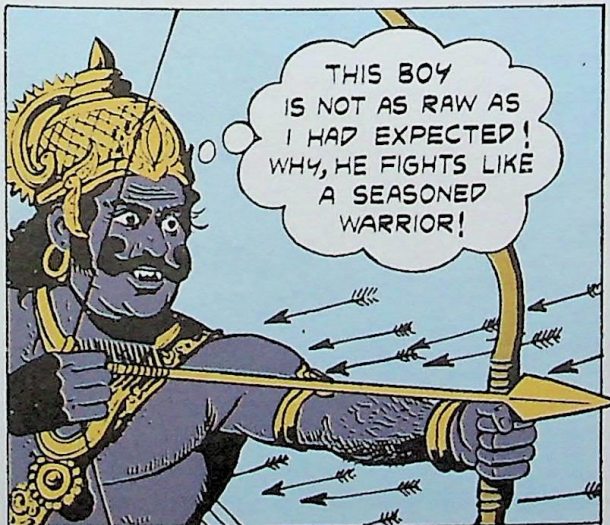
WHEN HE CAME FACE TO FACE WITH  
KARTTIKEYA—

MERCY  
OR DOOM?  
CHOOSE!

IMPUDENT CHILD! I HAVE  
COME TO SILENCE YOU ONCE  
AND FOR ALL.



THE TWO FOES MET.





THE NEXT MOMENT SHOWED ALL THE DEAD ASURAS ON THEIR FEET AND SURAPADMAN UP IN THE SKY IN A CHARIOT.

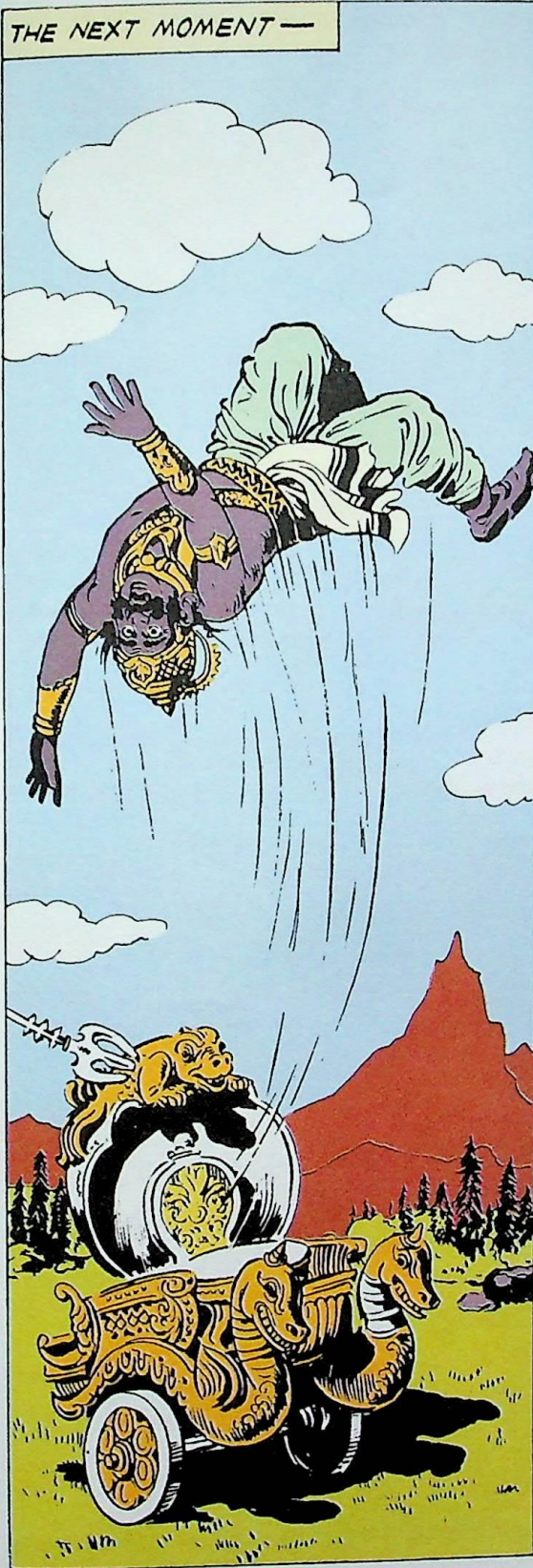
MY BRAVE ASURAS ARE UP AGAIN, KARTTIKEYA! SAVE YOURSELF NOW!

THIS ASTRA WILL TAKE CARE OF YOUR ASURAS!

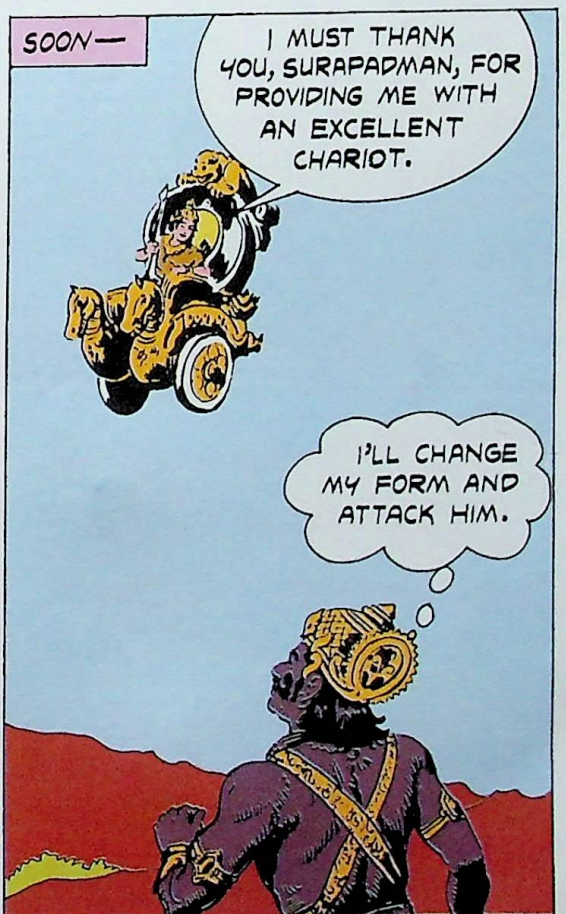
AND THIS — OF YOUR CHARIOT!



THE NEXT MOMENT —

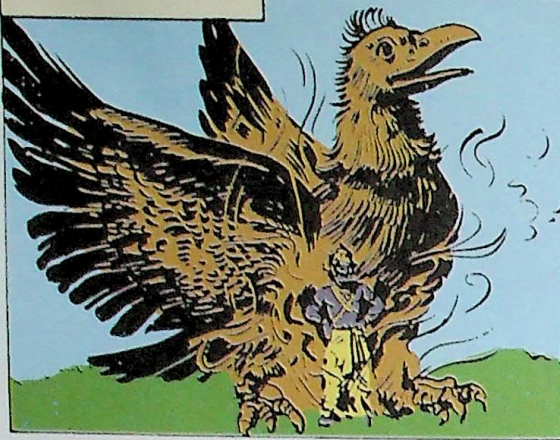


SOON —

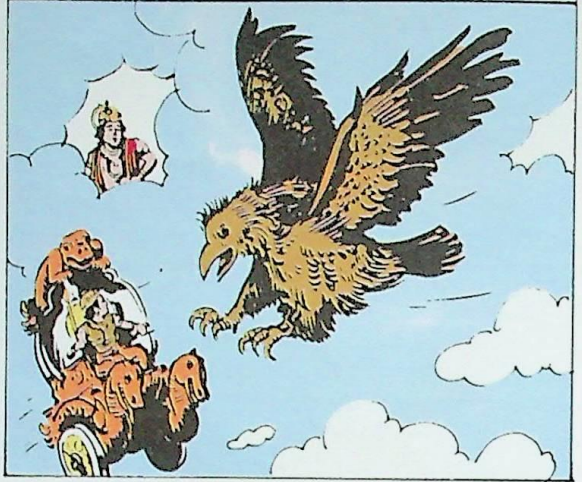




**SURAPADMAN QUICKLY ASSUMED THE FORM OF A HUGE BIRD ..**



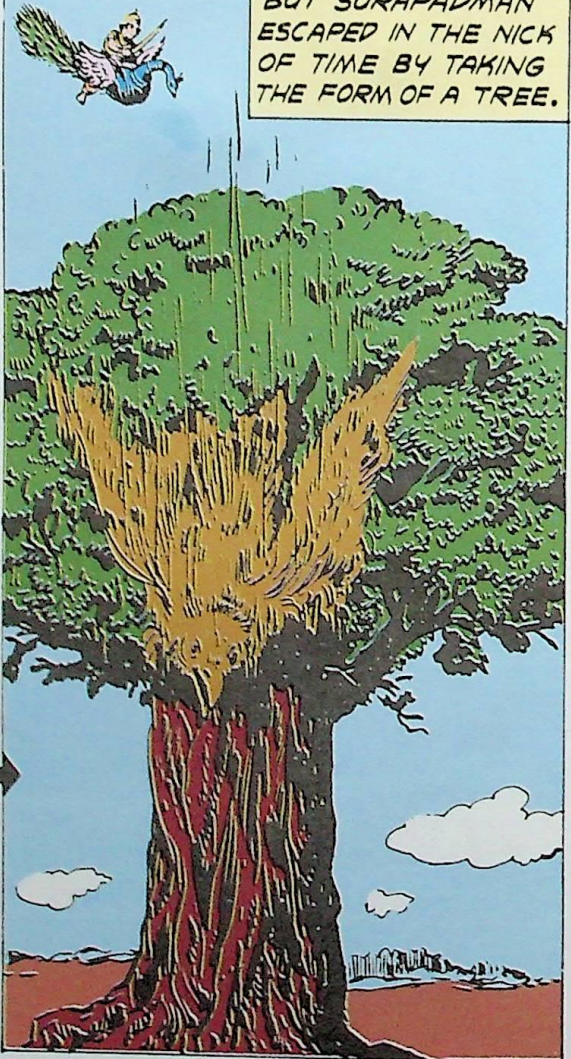
**...AND CHARGED AT KARTTIKEYA.**



**KARTTIKEYA HOWEVER USING INDRA IN THE FORM OF PEACOCK AS HIS MOUNT...**



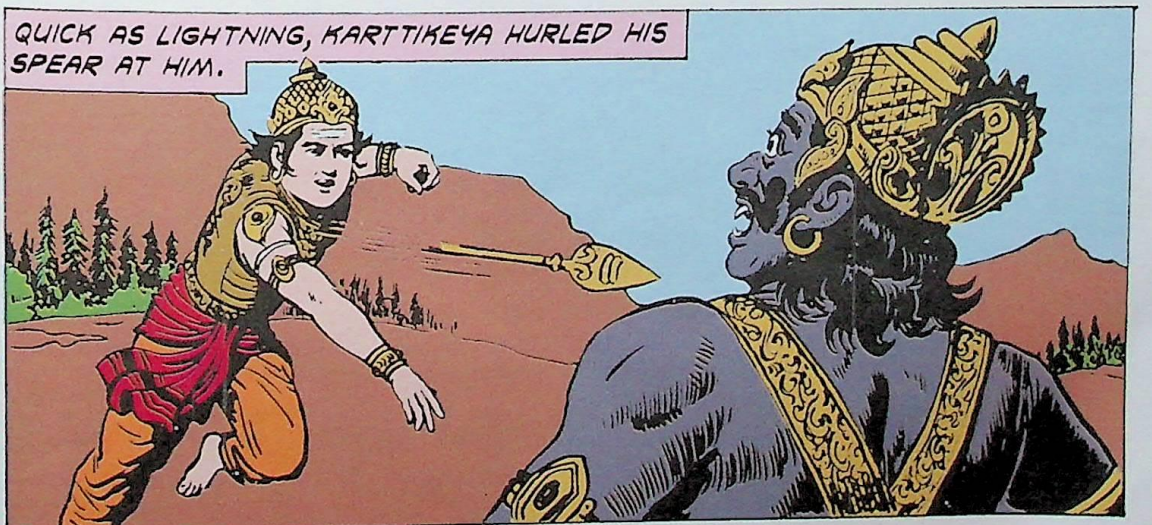
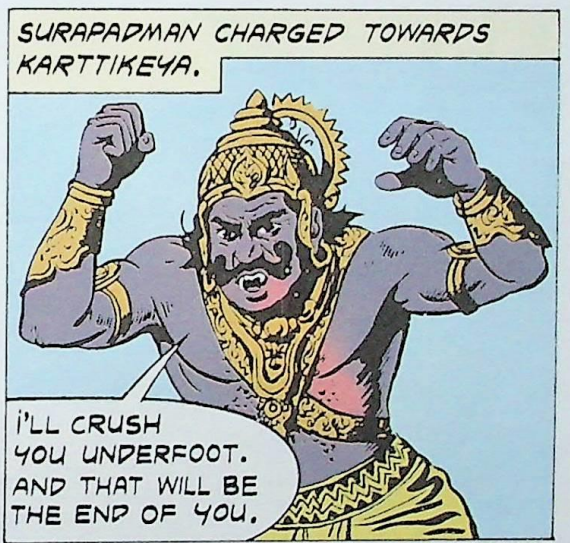
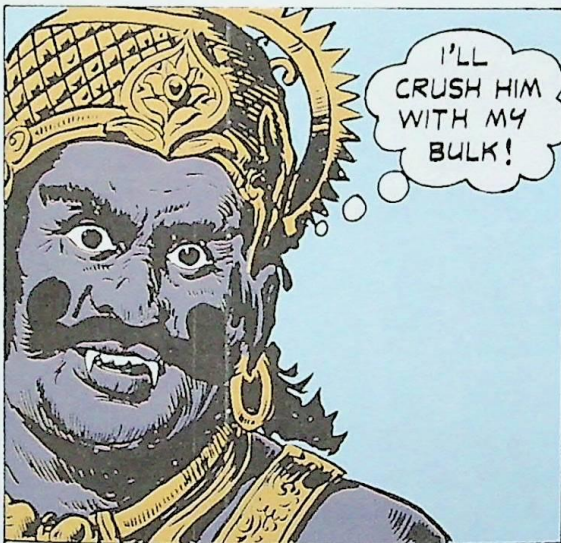
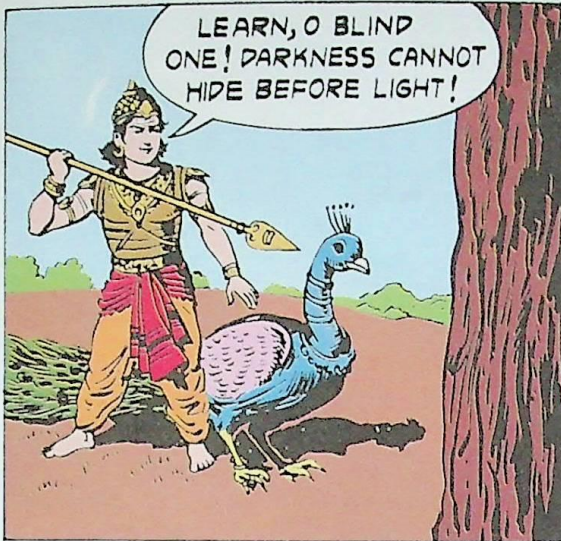
**BUT SURAPADMAN ESCAPED IN THE NICK OF TIME BY TAKING THE FORM OF A TREE.**



**...LASHED OUT AT HIM.**





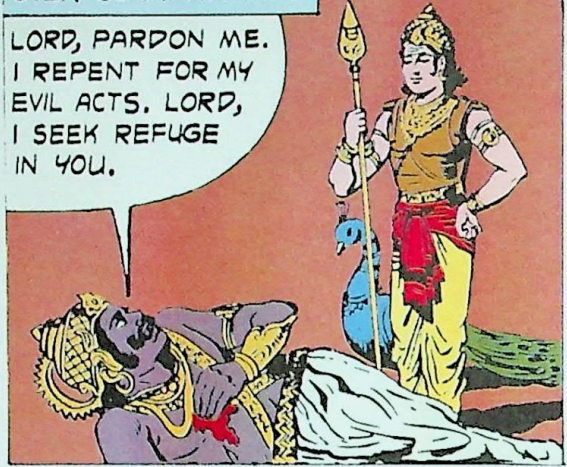




AND —

AS HE FELL, A GREAT CHANGE CAME  
OVER SURAPADMAN.

LORD, PARDON ME.  
I REPENT FOR MY  
EVIL ACTS. LORD,  
I SEEK REFUGE  
IN YOU.



KARTTIKEYA LOOKED AT THE FALLEN  
ASURA WITH COMPASSION.

SURAPADMAN,  
REPENTANCE WASHES  
AWAY ALL ONE'S SINS.  
YOU SHALL SERVE ME  
AS MY VEHICLE AND  
ALSO AS MY  
EMBLEM.



THUS SURAPADMAN ASSUMED TWO FORMS—ONE OF A PEACOCK TO SERVE AS  
A VEHICLE TO THE LORD AND ANOTHER OF A COCK TO ADORN KARTTIKEYA'S  
FLAG POST.

O KARTTIKEYA, WE  
BOW TO YOU IN  
REVERENCE.





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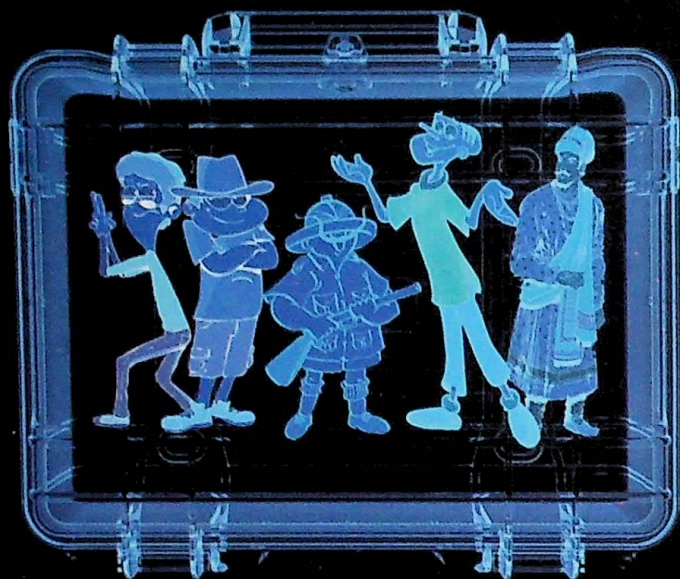


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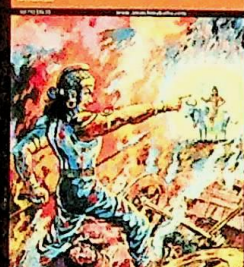
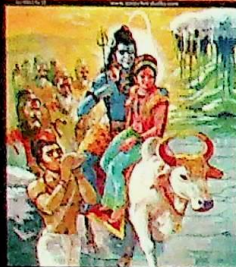
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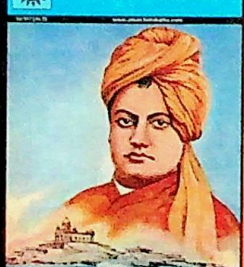
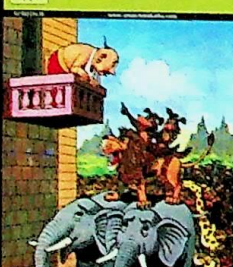
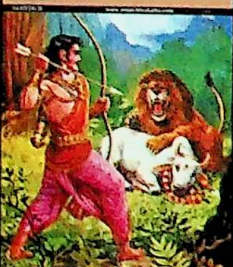
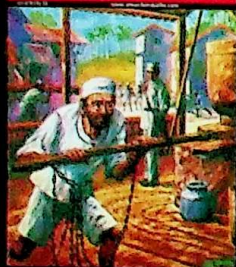
## KARTTIKEYA

The Puranas describe Karttikeya, a son of Shiva, as the commander-in-chief of the celestial army. He is also known as Subrahmanya, Skanda, Guha and Kumara. To the Tamil-speaking people he is Murugan. The six-headed, twelve-armed Karttikeya seated on a peacock is the symbol of youth, beauty, valour and supreme wisdom.

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